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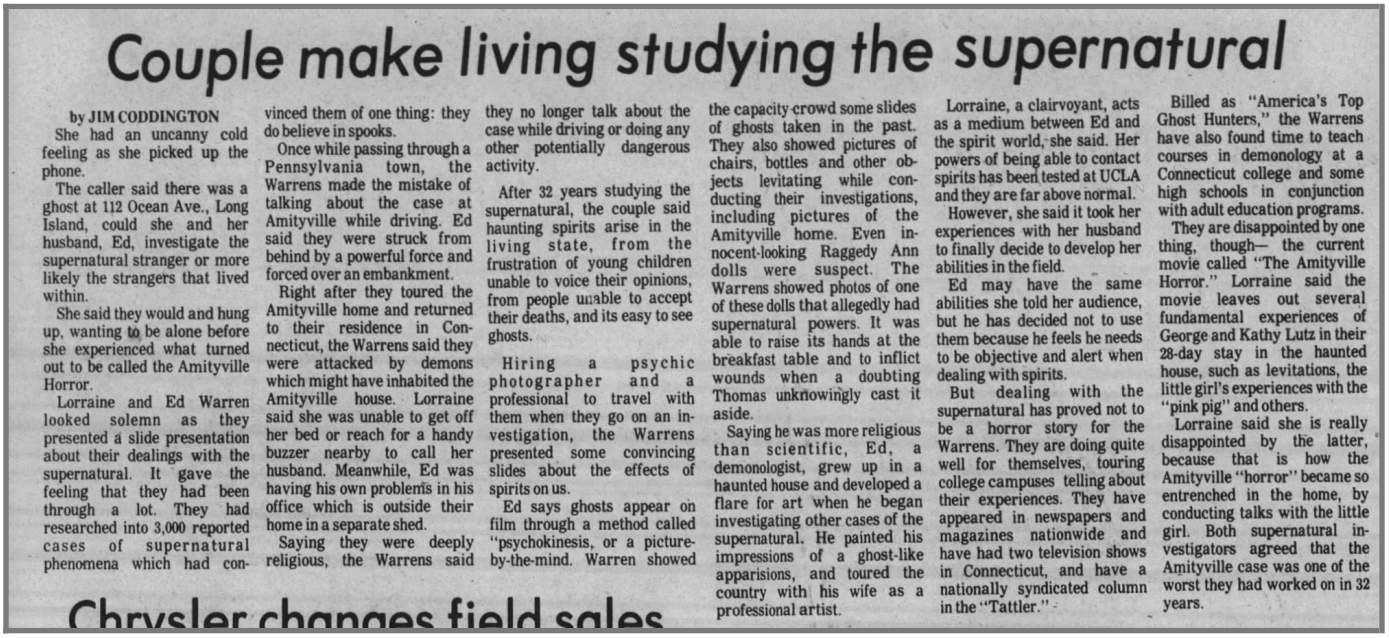

Couple make living studying the supernatural

by JIM CODDINGTON

She had an uncanny cold feeling as she picked up the phone.

The caller said there was a ghost at 112 Ocean Ave., Long Island, could she and her husband, Ed, investigate the supernatural stranger or more likely the strangers that lived within.

She said they would and hung up, wanting to be alone before she experienced what turned out to be called the Amityville Horror.

Lorraine and Ed Warren looked solemn as they presented a slide presentation about their dealings with the supernatural. It gave the feeling that they had been through a lot. They had researched into 3,000 reported cases of supernatural phenomena which had convinced them of one thing: they do believe in spooks.

Once while passing through a Pennsylvania town, the Warrens made the mistake of talking about the case at Amityville while driving. Ed said they were struck from behind by a powerful force and forced over an embankment.

Right after they toured the Amityville home and returned to their residence in Connecticut, the Warrens said they were attacked by demons which might have inhabited the Amityville house. Lorraine said she was unable to get off her bed or reach for a handy buzzer nearby to call her husband. Meanwhile, Ed was having his own problems in his office which is outside their home in a separate shed.

Saying they were deeply religious, the Warrens said they no longer talk about the case while driving or doing any other potentially dangerous activity.

After 32 years studying the supernatural, the couple said haunting spirits arise in the living state, from the frustration of young children unable to voice their opinions, from people unable to accept their deaths, and its easy to see ghosts.

Hiring a psychic photographer and a professional to travel with them when they go on an investigation, the Warrens presented some convincing slides about the effects of spirits on us.

Ed says ghosts appear on film through a method called "psychokinesis, or a picture-by-the-mind. Warren showed the capacity crowd some slides of ghosts taken in the past. They also showed pictures of chairs, bottles and other objects levitating while conducting their investigations, including pictures of the Amityville home. Even innocent-looking Raggedy Ann dolls were suspect. The Warrens showed photos of one of these dolls that allegedly had supernatural powers. It was able to raise its hands at the breakfast table and to inflict wounds when a doubting Thomas unknowingly cast it aside.

Saying he was more religious than scientific, Ed, a demonologist, grew up in a haunted house and developed a flare for art when he began investigating other cases of the supernatural. He painted his impressions of a ghost-like apparisions, and toured the country with his wife as a professional artist.

Lorraine, a clairvoyant, acts as a medium between Ed and the spirit world, she said. Her powers of being able to contact spirits has been tested at UCLA and they are far above normal.

However, she said it took her experiences with her husband to finally decide to develop her abilities in the field.

Ed may have the same abilities she told her audience, but he has decided not to use them because he feels he needs to be objective and alert when dealing with spirits.

But dealing with the supernatural has proved not to be a horror story for the Warrens. They are doing quite well for themselves, touring college campuses telling about their experiences. They have appeared in newspapers and magazines nationwide and have had two television shows in Connecticut, and have a nationally syndicated column in the "Tattler."

Billed as "America's Top Ghost Hunters," the Warrens have also found time to teach courses in demonology at a Connecticut college and some high schools in conjunction with adult education programs.

They are disappointed by one thing, though— the current movie called "The Amityville Horror." Lorraine said the movie leaves out several fundamental experiences of George and Kathy Lutz in their 28-day stay in the haunted house, such as levitations, the little girl's experiences with the "pink pig" and others.

Lorraine said she is really disappointed by the latter, because that is how the Amityville "horror" became so entrenched in the home, by conducting talks with the little girl. Both supernatural investigators agreed that the Amityville case was one of the worst they had worked on in 32 years.

Chrysler changes field sales

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